

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy including a length, a proximal portion, and a distal portion;

a continuous, unitary coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and

a polymeric tip composed of a polymeric material and extending from a distal portion of the coil, wherein the tip connects to the core by a polymeric material.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claims 22 wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.

26. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from the portion of the core near the proximal end of the core to a portion of the core near a distal end of the core.
27. (Canceled)
28. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the second material comprises stainless steel.
29. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the second material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.
30. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.
33. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies at least once along the length of the core.

34. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a coating.

35. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 34 wherein the coating is lubricious.

36. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 34 wherein the coating is colored.

37. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.

38. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.

39. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

40. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.

41-56. (Canceled)